Infant Child Abuse and Neglect Deaths

Collect
The National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention collects information on child abuse and neglect in the National Fatality Review Case Reporting System (CRS).

Data
From 2004 to 2017 there have been over 4,600 child abuse and neglect deaths among infants reviewed and entered in the CRS by participating teams.¹

Learn
To see other Quick-Looks and learn more, visit the National Center's website at ncfrp.org
Demographics

- For every 10 abuse or neglect infant deaths, 6 were boys and 4 were girls.
- 77% of infants with health insurance information recorded had Medicaid.
- 76% of infants were less than 6 months of age at the time of death.
Investigation and Social Characteristics

- **75%** 8 in 10 occurred in the infant’s home
- **33%** 3 in 10 had evidence of prior abuse identified during death investigation
- **67%** 7 in 10 had child protective services (CPS) action taken as a result of the infant’s death
- **31%** 3 in 10 had a history of child maltreatment prior to death
- **17%** 2 in 10 had an open CPS case at time of death
- **16%** 2 in 10 had siblings placed outside the home prior to infant’s death
Person Responsible

Male
6 in 10 Male (60%)

Mid-Twenties
Average age 26.6 years; median 25 years

Biological Parent
8 in 10 Biological parent (84%)

Other Persons
Mom’s partner (5%)
Other relative (3%)
Other person (7%)
Physical Abuse

- 41% were due to physical abuse

  - 32% of physical abuse were triggered by crying
  - 70% of physical abuse included abusive head trauma

Neglect

- 59% were due to neglect
  - 54% of neglect deaths were due to injury/external causes
    - 70% of these were due to asphyxia
  - 16% were failure to seek/follow medical treatment

54% of neglect included injury/external causes

16% of neglect included failure to follow medical treatment

16% of neglect included failure to seek medical treatment
Prevention Resources

**Community resources from CDC**
https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/prevention.html

**April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month**
https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/

**Technical Package from CDC**

**Tips sheets from Administration for Children & Families**
https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/resources/tip-sheets/

**Tip sheets from Children's Alliance**
https://ctfalliance.org/partnering-with-parents/parent-voice/

**Key Equity Terms & Concepts from Center for the Study of Social Policy**
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1 Includes data from deaths of infants who died by child abuse or neglect from 2004 to 2017, recorded in the CRS, and reviewed by fatality review teams. Some percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

These data represent a smaller percent of the cases entered into the CRS. For more information about the data contained in this Quick-Look, please visit https://www.ncfrp.org/wp-content/uploads/NCRPCD-Docs/NCFRP_Quick_Looks_Analysis.pdf